

2. Remarks

All pending claims were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim changes requested above were discussed with the Examiner and are understood by the applicants to satisfactorily address all of the requirements.

The Final Office Action (FOA) interprets the phrase "metal oxide" in Claim 51 to imply the presence of a metal phase. The applicants did not intend this interpretation. Claim 51 as currently amended changes "metal oxide" to "oxide" to clarify that no metal phase is present.

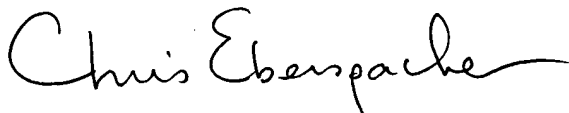
Claims 51, 54 and 59 as previously submitted refer to "dissolved metals and/or metal-containing compounds." The FOA notes that the original specification describes in several places the use of metal-containing compounds, but does not explicitly disclose "dissolved metals." As currently amended, "dissolved metals" is deleted.

The requested amendments narrow the wording of the claims, add no new material, and raise no issues not already fully addressed in earlier proceedings related to this application. The change of "metal oxide" to "oxide" in Claim 51 is a matter of semantic clarification. The deletion of "dissolved metals" in Claims 51, 54 and 59 truncates a list of two disjunctive elements that were present in the claims as originally filed with this continuation. The applicants respectfully submit that there is no need for further proceedings. The applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action they respectfully solicit.

3. Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

Applicants are requesting amendments to the claims of this application in accordance with detailed discussions with the Examiner. If, for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. §706.03(d) and §707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very Respectfully,



Chris Eberspacher



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Certificate of Mailing: I certify that on 2004 July 30 this letter will be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service by First Class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: "Box Amendment After Final, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450."

